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***A Sensitive Spot That
Needs an Able Man***

Since the end of World War II, the United States has had two ambassadors to Russia from the ranks of the military. The first of these was Lieut. Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, who did a lengthy tour of duty at the Soviet Capital. He was succeeded by Adm. Alan G. Kirk, who is now at home on leave and is not expected to return to his assignment.

Both of these men were considered highly qualified for the job, Smith because of his close contact with the Russians during World War II as General Eisenhower's chief of staff, and Kirk because of his long experience in a highly sensitive intelligence spot during the late conflict. They fitted right into the picture in a country that was considered America's potential enemy, and it is a significant thing that General Smith, since leaving Moscow, has been made chief of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The Soviet Capital is one of the most vital spots in Uncle Sam's network of foreign embassies, and the choice of a successor to Admiral Kirk was one of President Truman's topics of conversation this week in an interview with newsmen at Key West. George F. Kennan, the man he has in mind for the job, is admirably suited for the post at Moscow because of his wide experience with the Russian picture. As the architect of much of America's policy-making on involved Russian matters, Kennan would take with him to Moscow a knowledge of Soviet psychology which would stand this country in good stead in future transactions with the Stalin regime.